

1740Z 16 NOV 65

TOP SECRET

25X1A DIRECTOR



PRIORITY

25X1A 10R: 1823Z 16 NOV 65

OPS-1-10

IN-72043

FROM SHELTON

1. RETURNED FROM MEETING WITH TWO US DIVERS WHO HAVE NOW BEEN ON THE JOB FOR TWO DAYS. THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SITUATION, FACTS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIONS:

DIVING EFFORT IS DIFFICULT AND MUCH LESS THAN ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS IS EXTREMELY LIMITED AND QUESTION CONTINUED OPERATION BEYOND TWO OR THREE EFFECTIVE DIVING DAYS WITHOUT INTRODUCTION OF INCREASED CAPABILITY.

B. FACTS: (1) UNDERWATER VISIBILITY IS APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET VERTICALLY AND TWELVE TO FIFTEEN FEET Laterally. THIS FORCES DIVERS TO OPERATE AT APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND TEN FEET DEPTH. (2) EFFECTIVE DIVING TIME AT THIS DEPTH IS APPROX TWENTY - FIVE MINUTES PER MAN PER DAY AND US DIVERS ESTIMATE UP TO SIX MONTHS TO COVER ENTIRE AREA WITH CURRENT CAPABILITY.

25X1A

[REDACTED] (IN-72040)

T O P S E C R E T

PAGE-2

25X1A

THEY ALSO BELIEVE THE [REDACTED] DIVING EFFORT IS PRACTICALLY USELESS SINCE THEY [REDACTED] ARE GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR TEN FEET OF THE BOTTOM. (3) ONE US DIVER SPOTTED AN OBJECT 15 NOV WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN A PORTION OF 352. LIMITED VISIBILITY

25X1A

25X1A

AND INABILITY TO SIGNAL [REDACTED] TO STOP TOW PRECLUDED FURTHER INVESTIGATION THAT DAY. BOUYS WERE DROPPED TO MARK THE SPOT AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE WITH INTENTIONS OF RETURNING 16 NOV TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY WHETHER WRECKAGE OR ROCKS. DIFFICULTY

25X1A

OF GETTING [REDACTED] TOW IN DESIRED POSITION RESULTED IN NOT CHECKING THIS SPOT BEFORE USEFULL DAILY TIME ON THE BOTTOM HAD BEEN EXPENDED. (4) US DIVERS DO NOT RECOMMEND USE OF UNDERWATER TV DUE TO LIMITED VISIBILITY. (5) US DIVERS THINK THEIR EFFORT SHOULD BE TERMINATED AFTER THEY HAVE SATISFIED THEMSELVES THAT THE OBJECT SEEN ON 15TH IS OR IS NOT WRECKAGE.

25X1A

C. FUTURE ACTIONS: (1) I WILL COORDINATE [REDACTED] TO SEE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO PUT [REDACTED] ABOARD THE TOW BOAT TO ASSIST IN COORDINATION OF ALL US DIVING EFFORT UNTIL WE CAN VERIFY WHAT WAS SPOTTED ON 15TH. (2) US DIVERS FEEL THAT ONLY WAY TO EFFECTIVELY COVER ENTIRE SEARCH AREA IS WITH A UNIT KNOWN AS "SHALLOW GRAPH", (A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED

25X1A

25X1A

UNIT POSSESSED BY [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

A [REDACTED] (HQ SOO) KNOWS ABOUT THIS EQUIPMENT AND

25X1A

HOW TO CONTACT A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] UNDERSTAND

25X1A

UNIT IS AIR TRANSPORTABLE BY C130 BUT NO IDEA OF AVAILABILITY OR COSTS THAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED. (3) US DIVERS FEEL THAT WRECKAGE

25X1A

[] (IN-72849)

T O P S E C R E T

PAGE-3

SHOULD HOLD POSITION IN ROCKY AREA INSPITE OF THREE KNOT CURRENT.

(3) RECOMMEND HQ DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF GETTING SHALLOW
GRAPH ON SITE AND ADVISE. IF NOT FEASIBLE, RECOMMEND WE RELEASE
US DIVERS NEAR FUTURE AND ENCOURAGE [] TERMINATE WITH []

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

[] WHEN THEY ARE

SATISFIED THAT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN FULLY EXPLORED.

(3) CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE AS PERTAINS TO ADDITIONAL US
CAPABILITY OR TERMINATION OF SEARCH AND SALVAGE OPERATION WILL
NOT BE DISCUSSED [] UNTIL RECEIPT OF YOUR REPLY.

25X1A

25X1A

2. [] IN ON SAME DISCUSSION WITH DIVERS AND
CONCURS.

END OF MESSAGE

T O P S E C R E T